year 1999-2000 to Signal works, telecommunication facilities and track renewal and maintenance and hardware etc.

Rs. in crores (Gross basis)

	Budget Estimate 1999-2000	Revised Grant 1999-2000
Track Renewal	2000.00	1917.66
Signal & Tele	386.40	348.19

(c) Does not arise.

Armed Commandos in Trains

248. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:
SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether armed commandos are proposed to be deployed in trains;

(b) whether Railway Protection Force would be trained as commandos to protect train passengers;

(c) if so, the details of the proposal;

(d) the trains selected for this purpose; and

(d) other measures taken for passenger safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to train selected personnel of the Railway Protection Force as Commandos and deploy them at stations and on trains.

(c) and (d) The proposal is at a nascent stage.

(e) As per the Constitutional provision, maintenance of law and order and policing on the Railways including the running trains is the responsibility of the State Governments. The Railways have taken the

following measures for passenger safety:

(i) Passengers are educated on safety and security through notices and announcements over the Public Address System and CCTV.

(ii) Precautions on safety and security are frequently publicized through the print and electronic media.

(iii) Regular co-ordination is maintained with the Government Railway Police at all level.

(iv) The Railway Minister recently held a meeting on 15.01.2000 with the Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police to discuss issues affecting security of Railway passengers. A Committee consisting of officials of Railway Ministry, Home Ministry and some State Governments has been constituted in the above connection.

(v) It is also proposed to evolve a Passenger Safety Network to improve the security of passengers.

Shortage of Rail Accident Relief Cranes

249. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of Rail Accident Relief Cranes in the country;

(b) the number of relief cranes presently in operation in the country;

(c) the number of such cranes located in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) whether it is a fact that the cranes placed in Andhra Pradesh are generally out of maintenance;

(e) what are the reasons for the railways neglecting this crucial aspect of rail accident relief operations; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF